



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2007**

**Grade 11
Reading**

Reading

- 1 The word clique refers to
- A. a small group of people.
 - B. a central idea in an article.
 - C. an important piece of news.
 - D. an emotion shared by people.
- 2 The suffix *-arium* in the words aquarium and planetarium means
- A. the study of.
 - B. the process of.
 - C. a place for.
 - D. a machine for.

Read this poem about the relationship between the speaker and her family. Then answer the questions that follow.

Women Who Came Before Us

Our mothers stirred potatoes and herbs
in a pot on the stove. They were sniffing the air,
their deep eyes tuned. "Speak up," they sang.
"Say what you mean."

- 5 Our grandmothers hurt in their knees
and their necks. The world had not been easy for them.
Maybe no one had listened enough. My grandma whispered
in my ear, "You want that doll? You'll get that doll."

- And far away the secret women,
10 women in cloaks, wandering home,
sent us messages on the air.
"You're never, never ever alone."

- What words would we shape?
Where could we stand?
15 Women always gripped my hand.
They led me through the city crowds.

- I'd pull my poem from the wool of days.
Comb its hair, sing the praise
of friends and forests, dreams and dirt.
20 Write when I laughed, write when I hurt,

sing when no one fit my wish.
"Nothing here is what I ordered."
Poems would take me past my borders.
Back to the women who wove my name,

- 25 the sewing basket with needles and threads,
the silver thimble, the cozy bed,
the plumped-up pillow, the hand-stitched quilt.
And what would we say? What would we say?

—Naomi Shihab Nye

- 3 In line 23, the speaker uses the word borders to
- A. refer to the boundaries between countries.
 - B. show that she lives on the edge of a city.
 - C. describe the margins of her poems.
 - D. portray the limits of her present life.

- 4 The speaker **most likely** enjoys writing poems because they
- A. remind her of ties to the past.
 - B. make her relatives proud.
 - C. are so easy to compose.
 - D. prove that she is a talented person.

- 5 Which word **best** describes the speaker's attitude toward the women in her family?
- A. envious
 - B. appreciative
 - C. impatient
 - D. encouraging

- 6 The point of view in the poem shows the reader the
- A. thoughts of one person.
 - B. true sequence of events.
 - C. inner conflicts of all women.
 - D. important changes in the setting.

- 7 One theme of the poem is connection with previous generations. Explain how the poem explores this theme. Use details from the poem to support your answer.

Passage about Machu Picchu from *Finding the Lost Cities*

The passage used for these items is taken from *Finding the Lost Cities* by Rebecca Stefoff, pages 151–154. (Copyright © 1997 by Rebecca Stefoff. Published by Oxford University Press.) Due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to reprint the passage in this document. A summary follows.

Summary of the Passage

The passage describes the discovery of the city of Machu Picchu by Hiram Bingham. Bingham not only taught Latin American history at Yale University but also pursued an active career as an explorer and an archaeologist. According to the passage, Bingham was inspired by a verse from Rudyard Kipling's poem "The Explorer":

Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and
look behind the Ranges—
Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and
waiting for you. Go!

The passage explains that Bingham's search for a lost Inca city in 1911 was his third expedition through remote parts of South America in the early 1900s. His route through the Andes Mountains in Peru led him through hauntingly beautiful but difficult territory. The goal of the expedition was to locate Vilcabamba, the last capital of the Inca Empire. Spanish accounts place the city in a remote jungle, but its location had been forgotten after the destruction of the Inca empire in the late 1500s.

After hearing a local tavernkeeper describe ruins in the mountains, Bingham convinced the man to serve as a guide. The skepticism of the other members of the expedition did not discourage the explorer. Accompanied only by the tavernkeeper and a bodyguard, Bingham followed a difficult trail through the mountains, crossing the dangerous Urubamba River on a primitive log bridge. Bingham's final guide up the mountain was a 10-year-old boy.

The passage describes Bingham's exhilaration as he passed ancient stone terraces and reached a high ridge between two peaks. Through dense jungle he recognized houses and walls of fine Inca stonework. Bingham had discovered the city now known as Machu Picchu.

Bingham immediately rushed back to camp to share his discovery with the rest of the expedition. Continuing their explorations, the group located another site hidden in the jungle along the Urubamba River. According to the passage, Bingham believed this second city was Vilcabamba.

The passage includes a map of part of South America:



- 8 Why is the quote from Rudyard Kipling's poem included in the passage?
- A. to show that Hiram Bingham had a variety of interests
 - B. to prove that Hiram Bingham's methods were common
 - C. to connect Hiram Bingham to other thinkers
 - D. to explain Hiram Bingham's attitude toward his work

- 9 In paragraph 2, the word daunting means
- A. boring.
 - B. difficult.
 - C. familiar.
 - D. destroyed.

- 10 In paragraph 4, the word fastness means
- A. old settlement.
 - B. prosperous city.
 - C. familiar site.
 - D. secure place.

- 11 Which conclusion is **best** supported by the information in paragraphs 5 and 6?
- A. The tavernkeeper was trying to take advantage of Bingham.
 - B. Bingham already knew where Machu Picchu was located.
 - C. Machu Picchu was often visited by local inhabitants.
 - D. Bingham was determined to explore the ruins in the mountains.

- 12 Explain the reasons that Machu Picchu remained "lost" for so long. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

13 In paragraph 6, the word precarious means

- A. perilous.
- B. exciting.
- C. plunging.
- D. sturdy.

14 Which word **best** describes Bingham's reaction upon seeing Machu Picchu?

- A. worry
- B. gratitude
- C. awe
- D. confusion

15 Which information does the map provide?

- A. the Spanish trade route Bingham followed
- B. the approximate locations of Inca ruins
- C. the territory controlled by the Inca empire
- D. the different field trips Bingham undertook

16 What is the **main** purpose of the passage?

- A. to describe the discovery of an important site
- B. to give biographical information about Bingham
- C. to explain the best method of historical research
- D. to provide historical information about the Inca Empire

17 Describe the qualities that made Bingham a successful explorer. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2007.

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Grade 11 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	WV	LI	LI	LA	LA	IA	WV	WV	IA	IA
GSE Code	10-3	10-2	10-3	10-4	10-4	10-5	10-5	10-8	10-2	10-3	10-8	10-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	A	C	D	A	B	A		D	B	D	D	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

Released Item Number	13	14	15	16	17
Content Strand ¹	WV	II	II	IA	IA
GSE Code	10-2	10-7	10-7	10-8	10-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	2	2	1	2	3
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	A	C	B	A	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response